

RANA BOANS LINNAEUS, 1758 (AMPHIBIA): REQUEST FOR
PLACEMENT ON THE OFFICIAL LIST OF SPECIFIC NAMES IN
ZOOLOGY. Z.N.(S.) 1957

By William E. Duellman (*Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, U.S.A.*) and Juan A. Rivero (*Department of Biology, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico*)

As pointed out by Rivero in 1961 (*Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.* **126** : 106) and by Duellman in 1970 (*Monog. Mus. Nat. Hist. Univ. Kansas* **1** : 261), a large South American tree frog (family HYLIDAE) has been known as *Hyla boans* (Linnaeus, 1758) or *Hyla maxima* (Laurenti, 1768). In 1900 Andersson (*Bih. till k. Svenska Ved.-Akad.* **26** : 17) noted that *Rana boans* Linnaeus, 1758, was applicable to the large South American tree frog which throughout the Nineteenth Century had been known as *Hyla maxima* (Laurenti, 1768). In 1940 Mertens (*Zool. Anz.* **132** : 195) reiterated the assignment of *Hyla boans* (Linnaeus, 1758). In addition to Mertens (*op. cit.*), Rivero (*op. cit.*), and Duellman (*op. cit.*), the following workers have used *Hyla boans* (Linnaeus, 1758) for this large frog: Bokermann (1962, *Rev. Brasil Biol.* **22** : 214) Heatwole, Solano and Heatwole (1965 *Acta Biol. Venez.* **4** : 352), and Trueb (1970, *Univ. Kansas Publ. Mus. Nat. Hist.* **18** : 688).

2. In 1958 Goin and Layne (*Publ. Res. Div. Ross Allen Rept. Inst.* **1** : 111) argued that on the basis of the Copenhagen Decisions (Hemming, 1953 : 25) it would be better to use the name *Hyla maxima* (Laurenti, 1768) than to apply the name *Hyla boans* (Linnaeus, 1758), which they interpreted to be a *nomen oblitum*. In 1969 Kenny (*Stud. Fauna Curacao* . . . **29** : 47) used *Hyla maxima* (Laurenti, 1768) without any explanation. In 1970 Cochran and Goin (*Bull. U.S. Natl. Mus.* **288** : 201) stated: "There can be no doubt that this frog was first named *Rana boans* by Linnaeus in the tenth edition of his *Systema Natura* [sic]. That name was overlooked, however, until 1900 when it was resurrected by Andersson (1900, p. 17). In the meantime Laurenti (1768, p. 32) gave the name *maxima*, which became adopted as the name for the species and was widely used for many years . . ." On the basis of Art. 23, b, ii of the Code, Cochran and Goin ". . . consider *boans* Linnaeus, 1758, as unavailable . . ."

3. Duellman (*op. cit.*) reviewed the historical use of the trivial names *boans* and *maxima* and concluded: ". . . it seems only reasonable to proceed under a strict adherence to the law of Priority and utilize the name *boans* for the large and widespread species of frog." Both Linnaeus (1758) and Laurenti (1768) based their names on figures in volume 1 of Seba's (1734) "Thesaurus". Both authors cited plate 72, figure 3, and Linnaeus also cited plate 71, figures 3 and 4. Thus, utilizing plate 72, figure 3, as an indication of a type, *Rana maxima* Laurenti, 1768, is a junior objective synonym of *Rana boans* Linnaeus, 1758.

4. In light of Declaration 43 (1970, *Bull. Zool. Nomencl.* **27** : 135), both *Hyla boans* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *Hyla maxima* (Laurenti, 1768) have been in general use for the past 50 years (Art. 23, b, i); furthermore, the senior synonym *Hyla boans*, does not fall into the category delimited in Art. 23, b, ii. It is our

view that usage of *Hyla maxima* (Laurenti, 1768) is contrary to the Law of Priority and contrary to the spirit of the Code, that is, the establishment of stability.

5. The nomenclatural usage of *Hyla boans* (Linnaeus, 1758) is compounded by a junior homonym—*Hyla boans* Latreille, 1801 (*in* Sonnini and Latreille, *Hist. Nat. Rept.* 2 : 184). *Hyla albopunctata* Spix, 1824 (*Animalia Nova . . . Ranarum*, p. 33) is the next available name for the species of *Hyla* to which the name *Hyla boans* Latreille, 1801, had been applied. Cochran (1955, *Bull. U.S. Natl. Mus.* 206 : 80) accepted the priority of *Hyla boans* (Linnaeus, 1758) over *Hyla maxima* (Laurenti, 1768) and used *Hyla albopunctata* Spix, 1824, for the frog in southeastern Brasil previously known as *Hyla boans* Latreille, 1801. Her action was followed by Rivero (1961, *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, 126 : 105) and by Bokermann (1966, *Lista Anotada Localidades Tipo . . .*, p. 44). Obviously the application of a name to the frogs currently known as *Hyla boans* Latreille, 1801, or *Hyla albopunctata* Spix, 1824, depends upon a decision regarding the availability of *Hyla boans* (Linnaeus, 1758).

6. The type specimen of *Hyla albopunctata* Spix is no longer extant; no type specimen of *Hyla boans* (Linnaeus) was designated. In order to assure stability, one of us (Duellman) has submitted for publication (*Herpetologica* 27) a manuscript in which neotypes are designated. One specimen has been designated as the neotype of both *Rana boans* Linnaeus and *Rana maxima* Laurenti. The designation of neotypes and the validation of the most applicable specific names will result in nomenclatural stability, a luxury not afforded these frogs in this century.

7. Accordingly, the Commission is hereby requested:

(1) to place the following trivial names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

(a) *boans*, as used in the combination *Rana boans* Linnaeus, 1758, neotype number 16603 in the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden;

(b) *albopunctata*, as used in the combination *Hyla albopunctata* Spix, 1824, neotype number 100000 in the Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence;

(2) to place the following specific names on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology:

(a) *boans*, as used in the combination *Hyla boans* Latreille, 1801 (a junior primary homonym of *Rana boans* Linnaeus, 1758);

(b) *maxima* Laurenti, 1768, as used in the combination *Rana maxima* (a junior objective synonym of *Rana boans* Linnaeus, 1758).